

ATTACHMENT 2

October 11, 2007

Kathryn L. Feeney
Manager - Contract Management
9300 Metcalf
Overland Park, KS 66212
Mailstop: KSOPKB0402-4674

Re: Date upon which Embarq Florida, Inc., Incorporated, United Telephone Company of Indiana, United Telephone Company of Eastern Kansas, United Telephone Company of Kansas, United Telephone Company of Southcentral Kansas, Embarq Minnesota, Inc., Embarq Missouri, Inc., United Telephone Company of the West, Nevada Division of Central Telephone Company, Telephone Company – North Carolina Division, United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc., Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, United Telephone Company of Ohio, United Telephone Company of the Northwest, United Telephone – Southeast, Inc., Central Telephone Company of Virginia, United Telephone Company of Texas, Inc., and, Central Telephone Company of Texas, and (collectively "Embarq") Received Request for Negotiations of an Interconnection Agreement from Intrado

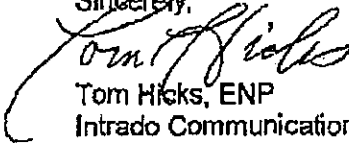
Dear Kathryn:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm our agreement as to the date on which Embarq received Intrado's request for negotiations of interconnection agreements pursuant to Section 252 of the Communications Act of 1934 (the "Act") for Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

The parties agree that for purposes of Section 252 of the Act Sprint received Intrado's request for negotiations for the states listed above on June 22, 2007. Based on that date, the 135th day (opening of the window) will fall on November 3, 2007 and the 160th day (closing of the window) will fall on November 28, 2007.

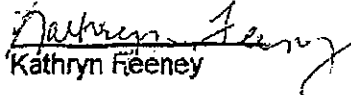
Please indicate your agreement with the foregoing by signing in the space provided below and return either the original or a copy to my attention. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Tom Hicks, ENP
Intrado Communications Inc.
Director- Carrier Relations

Agreed to by Embarq:

By:


Kathryn Feeney

ATTACHMENT 3

intrado®
COMMUNICATIONS INC.

May 18, 2007

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Kathryn Feeney
EMBARQ Corporation
9300 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66212-1463

RE: Request for Section 251 Interconnection

Dear Ms. Feeney:

Pursuant to Section 251, et seq. of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as amended, Intrado Communications Inc. herein requests interconnection with Embarq.

Please forward the appropriate materials to:

Thomas W. Hicks
Director, Regulatory Affairs
c/o Colleen Lockett
Intrado Communications Inc.
1601 Dry Creek Drive
Longmont, CO 80503
e-mail: regulatory@intrado.com

We look forward to commencing interconnection negotiations with your team. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (972) 772-5883.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Thomas W. Hicks

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Kathryn Feeney
EMBARQ Corp
9300 Metcalf Ave.,
Overland Park, KS 66212-1463

2. Article Number
(Transfer from service label)

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

☐ Agent

☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1?

☐ Yes

If YES, enter delivery address below:

☐ No

3. Service Type

☐ Certified Mail

☐ Express Mail

☐ Registered

☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise

☐ Insured Mail

☐ C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)

☐ Yes

7006 0100 0001 0664 3107

PS Form 3811, February 2004

Domestic Return Receipt

102595-02-M (540)

U.S. Postal ServiceTM

CERTIFIED MAILTM RECEIPT

(Domestic Mail Only; No Insurance Coverage Provided)

For delivery information visit our website at www.usps.com

OFFICIAL USE

Postage \$

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Return Receipt Fee

(Endorsement Required)

Restricted Delivery Fee

(Endorsement Required)

Total Postage & Fees

\$ 5.61

5/2/07
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Sent To:

Street, Apt. No.,

or PO Box No.

City, State, ZIP+4

PS Form 3800, June 2002

See Reverse for Instructions



Negotiation Request Form

5/18/2007

5404

Date (m/d/yyyy)

CLEC 4-Digit Operating Company Number (OCN)

Intrado Communications Inc.

Certified name of the Carrier

Is your company affiliated with any other Telecommunications Company?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If so, please provide the name of the affiliated company.

Tom Hicks

(972) 772-5883 ext.

Carrier contact name

Carrier contact telephone number

1601 Dry Creek Drive

regulatory@intrado.com

Headquarters address (also used for official notices)

Contact email address

Longmont, CO 80503

City, State, Zip

Represented by outside consultant and/or attorney?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If the answer is "Yes" please continue.

() ext.

Consultant and/or attorney name and firm name

Consultant and/or attorney telephone number

Consultant and/or attorney address

Consultant and/or attorney email address

City, State, Zip

Services planned (check all that apply):

☒ Interconnection ☒ Resale ☒ UNE ☒ Collocation

Please check the type of agreement requested:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wireless Interconnection | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLEC Interconnection, Collocation and Resale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic termination only | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MFN (please list below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resale only | <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Wire Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) |

State	Check all applicable	Forecasted market rollout date	Name of Agreement to opt-in to (if applicable)
FL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3/1/10	
IN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
KS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
MO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
MN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
NC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
NE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
NJ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
NV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
OH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
OR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
PA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
SC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
TN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
TX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
VA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
WA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	
WY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1	

Please email the completed form to: negotiation.request@embarq.com.

ATTACHMENT 4

From: Feeney, Kathryn L [EQ] [mailto:Kathryn.L.Feeney@Embarq.com]
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2007 1:41 PM
To: Lockett, Colleen
Subject: RE: Embarq

Here is our template.

From: Lockett, Colleen [mailto:Clockett@Intrado.com]
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2007 2:04 PM
To: Feeney, Kathryn L [EQ]
Subject: RE: Embarq

Kathryn,

We sent the negotiation form for interconnection and are looking for the information/materials needed to act as a facilities-based provider for the provision of local exchange service.

Thank you,
Colleen

From: Feeney, Kathryn L [EQ] [mailto:Kathryn.L.Feeney@Embarq.com]
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2007 6:33 AM
To: Lockett, Colleen
Subject: RE: Embarq

Colleen:

From your request, it appears that you are looking for agreement to adopt? Would you like me to send you some from each state to review?

From: Request, Negotiation
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2007 5:16 PM
To: Feeney, Kathryn L [EQ]
Subject: FW: Embarq

From: Lockett, Colleen [mailto:Clockett@Intrado.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2007 4:14 PM
To: Request, Negotiation
Subject: Embarq

Attached please find the negotiation request form from Intrado Communications Inc. We look forward to hearing from you.

Colleen Lockett
Regulatory Affairs Specialist
Intrado Inc.

1601 Dry Creek Drive
Longmont, CO 80503
direct: 720-864-5506
fax: 720-494-6600
email: clockett@intrado.com

Intrado[®]
www.intrado.com

ATTENTION:

The information contained in this electronic message and any attachments to this message are intended for the exclusive use of the addressee(s) and may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify Intrado Inc. immediately at 720-494-5800 and destroy all copies of this message and any attachments.



**INTERCONNECTION, COLLOCATION AND RESALE AGREEMENT
FOR THE STATE OF [INSERT STATE NAME]**

*Insert Date of Agreement
(leave blank until ready for final signature)*

[Insert CLEC Name]

and

[Insert Embarq Company Name]

THIS DOCUMENT IS A DRAFT AND REPRESENTS THE CURRENT POSITIONS OF THE EMBARQ LOCAL OPERATING COMPANIES WITH RESPECT TO INTERCONNECTION AND RESALE. EMBARQ RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THIS DRAFT AGREEMENT, INCLUDING ANY APPENDICES, SCHEDULES AND/OR ATTACHMENTS THERETO, AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE EXECUTION OF A FINAL AGREEMENT BY BOTH PARTIES. THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT AN OFFER. TO THE EXTENT THE PARTIES AGREE TO ALSO NEGOTIATE NETWORK ELEMENTS, SERVICES, OR INTERCONNECTION RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS NOT GOVERNED BY 47 USC 251 ("NON-251 SERVICES"), THE PARTIES AGREEMENT TO NEGOTIATE BOTH TYPES OF SERVICES DOES NOT MAKE THE NON-251 SERVICES SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF 47 USC 252 AND DOES NOT TRIGGER THE VARIOUS PROCESSES UNDER SECTION 252, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO COMPULSORY ARBITRATION OF THE RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR NON-251 SERVICES. FURTHER, CLEC AGREES NOT TO ARGUE THAT AGREEMENT TO DISCUSS BOTH 251 AND NON-251 SERVICES CONSTITUTES AN AGREEMENT BY EMBARQ THAT THE NON-251 SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO 252.

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INTERCONNECTION, COLLOCATION AND RESALE AGREEMENT

This Interconnection, Collocation and Resale Agreement (the "Agreement"), dated this _____ day of _____, 20____, is entered into by and between [*Insert CLEC Name*] ("CLEC"), a [*Insert State Name*] corporation, and [*Insert Embarq Company Name*] ("Embarq"), a [*Insert state of incorporation*] corporation, to establish the rates, terms and conditions for local interconnection, collocation, local resale, and purchase of unbundled Network Elements (individually referred to as the "service" or collectively as the "services").

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to interconnect their local exchange networks for the purposes of transmission and termination of calls, so that customers of each can receive calls that originate on the other's network and place calls that terminate on the other's network, and for CLEC's use in the provision of exchange access ("Local Interconnection"); and

WHEREAS, CLEC wishes to purchase Telecommunications Services for resale to others, and Embarq is willing to provide these services; and

WHEREAS, CLEC wishes to purchase unbundled Network Elements, ancillary services and functions and additional features ("Network Elements") for the provision of Telecommunications Services to others, and Embarq is willing to provide unbundled Network Elements and services; and

WHEREAS, the Parties intend the rates, terms and conditions of this Agreement, and their performance of obligations thereunder, to comply with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), and the orders, rules and regulations of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to replace any and all other prior agreements, written and oral, applicable to the state of [*Insert State Name*].

Now, therefore, in consideration of the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement, CLEC and Embarq hereby mutually agree as follows:

PART A – DEFINITIONS

1. DEFINED TERMS

- 1.1. Capitalized terms defined in this Section shall have the meanings as set forth in this Agreement. Other terms used but not defined will have the meanings ascribed to them in the Act or in the Rules and Regulations of the FCC or the Commission. The Parties acknowledge that other terms appear in this Agreement, which are not defined or ascribed as stated above. The Parties agree that any such terms shall be construed in accordance with their customary usage in the telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date of this Agreement.
- 1.2. **“911 Service”** means a universal telephone number which gives the public direct access to the Public Safety Answering Point (“PSAP”). Basic 911 service collects 911 calls from one or more local exchange switches that serve a geographic area. The calls are then sent to the correct authority designated to receive such calls.
- 1.3. **“Access Services”** refers to interstate and intrastate switched access and private line transport services.
- 1.4. **“Act”** means the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
- 1.5. **“Affiliate”** is as defined in the Act.
- 1.6. **“Augment”** refers to a modification (increase/addition or decrease/reduction) to an existing Collocation Arrangement. Examples include changes to the space, cage, power, cross-connect cabling, conduit, vault, riser, or cabling associated with the Collocation Arrangement.
- 1.7. **“Automated Message Accounting”** (“AMA”) is the structure inherent in switch technology that initially records telecommunication message information. AMA format is contained in the Automated Message Accounting document, published by Telcordia as GR-1100-CORE which defines the industry standard for message recording.
- 1.8. **“Automatic Location Identification”** (“ALI”) means a feature that provides the caller’s telephone number, address and the names of the Emergency Response agencies that are responsible for that address.
- 1.9. **“Automatic Location Identification/Data Management System”** (“ALI/DMS”) means the emergency service (“E911/911”) database containing subscriber location information (including name, address, telephone number, and sometimes special information from the local service provider) used to determine to which Public Safety Answering Point (“PSAP”) to route the call.
- 1.10. **“Automatic Number Identification”** (“ANI”) is a feature that identifies and displays the number of a telephone line that originates a call.
- 1.11. **“Automatic Route Selection”** (“ARS”) is a service feature associated with a

specific grouping of lines that provides for automatic selection of the least expensive or most appropriate transmission facility for each call based on criteria programmed into the system.

- 1.12. **"ATU - C"** refers to an ADSL Transmission Unit - Central Office.
- 1.13. **"Busy Line Verify/Busy Line Verify Interrupt"** (**"BLV/BLVI"**) means an operator call in which the caller inquires as to the busy status of, or requests an interruption of a call on another subscriber's telephone line.
- 1.14. **"Business Day(s)"** means the days of the week excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and all Embarq holidays.
- 1.15. **"Business Line"** is an Embarq-owned switched access line used to serve a business customer, whether by Embarq or by a competitive LEC that leases the line from Embarq. The number of Business Lines in a Wire Center shall equal the sum of all Embarq business switched access lines, plus the sum of all UNE loops connected to that Wire Center, including UNE loops provisioned in combination with other unbundled elements. Among these requirements, Business Line tallies (1) shall include only those access lines connecting end-user customers with Embarq end-offices for switched services, (2) shall not include non-switched special access lines, (3) shall account for ISDN and other digital access lines by counting each 64 kbps-equivalent as one line. For example, a DS1 line corresponds to twenty-four (24) 64 kbps-equivalents, and therefore to twenty-four (24) "Business Lines."
- 1.16. **"Cable Vault"** shall mean a location in a Premises where facilities enter the Premises from the Outside Cable Duct and access the Inner Duct for distribution within the Premises.
- 1.17. **"Carrier Access Billing System"** (**"CABS"**) is the system which is defined in a document prepared under the direction of the Billing Committee of the OBF. The CABS document is published by Telcordia in Volumes 1, 1A, 2, 3, 3A, 4 and 5 as Special Reports SR-OPT-001868, SR-OPT-001869, SR-OPT-001871, SR-OPT-001872, SR-OPT-001873, SR-OPT-001874, and SR-OPT-001875, respectively, and contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of access and other connectivity services. Embarq's carrier access billing system is its Carrier Access Support System (CASS). CASS mirrors the requirements of CABS.
- 1.18. **"Central Office Building"** or **"Building"** shall mean a structure (not including a controlled environment vault ("CEV")) housing Embarq network equipment that is under the control of Embarq and for which Embarq has the right to grant access and/or occupation by third parties.
- 1.19. **"Central Office Switches"** - are switching facilities within the public switched telecommunications network, including, but not limited to:
 - 1.19.1. **"End Office Switches"** (**"EOs"**) are switches from which end user Telephone Exchange Services are directly connected and offered.

- 1.19.2. **"Tandem Switches"** are switches that are used to connect and switch trunk circuits between and among Central Office Switches.
- 1.19.3. **"Remote Switches"** are switches that are away from their host or control office. All or most of the central control equipment for the remote switch is located at the host or Control Office.
- 1.20. **"Centrex"** means a Telecommunications Service associated with a specific grouping of lines that uses central office switching equipment for call routing to handle direct dialing of calls, and to provide numerous private branch exchange-like features.
- 1.21. **"CLASS/LASS"** (Telcordia Service Mark) refers to service features that utilize the capability to forward a calling party's number between end offices as part of call setup. Features include Automatic Callback, Automatic Recall, Caller ID, Call Trace, and Distinctive Ringing.
- 1.22. **"Collocation Arrangement"** refers to a single, specific provision of collocation in a particular Premises, not limited to a cage enclosing CLEC's equipment within the Premises.
- 1.23. **"Collocation Space"** shall mean an area of space located in a building to be used by CLEC to house telecommunications equipment that is necessary for interconnection or access to UNEs. Additionally, roof or wall space used for wireless interconnection shall be included in the definition where applicable.
- 1.24. **"Commingle"** means the act of Commingling.
- 1.25. **"Commingling"** means the connecting, attaching, or otherwise linking of an unbundled Network Element, or a combination of unbundled Network Elements, to one or more facilities or services that CLEC has obtained at wholesale from Embarq or the combining of an unbundled Network Element, or a combination of unbundled Network Elements with one or more such facilities or services.
- 1.26. **"Commission"** means the [*Insert Commission Name*].
- 1.27. **"Common Channel Signaling"** ("CCS") is a method of digitally transmitting call set-up and network control data over a digital signaling network fully separate from the public switched telephone network that carries the actual call.
- 1.28. **"Common Transport"** provides a local interoffice transmission path between End Office Switches, between End Office Switches and Tandem Switches and between Tandem Switches in Embarq's network. Common Transport is shared between multiple customers and is required to be switched at the Tandem Switch.
- 1.29. **"Confidential and/or Proprietary Information"** has the meaning set forth in Section 15.
- 1.30. **"Controlled Environment Vault"** ("CEV") shall mean a below ground room other than a Central Office Building which is controlled by Embarq and which is suitable for collocation of telecommunications equipment under controlled

temperature and humidity.

- 1.31. **"Control Office"** is an exchange carrier center or office designated as the Party's single point of contact for the provisioning and maintenance of its portion of local interconnection arrangements.
- 1.32. **"Copper Loop"** is a stand-alone local loop comprised entirely of copper wire or cable. Copper Loops include two-wire and four-wire analog voice-grade Copper Loops, digital Copper Loops (e.g., DS0s and integrated services digital network lines), as well as two-wire and four-wire Copper Loops conditioned to transmit the digital signals needed to provide digital subscriber line services, regardless of whether the Copper Loops are in service or held as spares. The Copper Loop includes attached electronics using time division multiplexing technology, but does not include packet switching capabilities.
- 1.33. **"Custom Calling Features"** means a set of Telecommunications Service features available to residential and single-line business customers including call-waiting, call-forwarding and three-party calling.
- 1.34. **"Customer Proprietary Network Information" ("CPNI")** is as defined in the Act.
- 1.35. **"Database Management System" ("DBMS")** is a computer process used to store, sort, manipulate and update the data required to provide Selective Routing and ALL.
- 1.36. **"Day"** means Days unless otherwise specified.
- 1.37. **"Dedicated Transport"** includes Embarq transmission facilities between Wire Centers or Switches owned by Embarq, or between Wire Centers or Switches owned by Embarq and Switches owned by CLEC, including, but not limited to, DS1-, DS3-, and OCn-capacity level services, as well as dark fiber, dedicated to a particular customer or carrier.
- 1.38. **"Demarcation Point"** is that point on the facility where Embarq's control of the facility ceases, and the End User Customer's control of the facility begins.
- 1.39. **"Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer" ("DSLAM")** is equipment that links end-user xDSL connections to a single high-speed packet switch, typically ATM or IP.
- 1.40. **"Directory Assistance Database"** refers to any subscriber record used by Embarq in its provision of live or automated operator-assisted directory assistance including but not limited to 411, 555-1212, NPA-555-1212.
- 1.41. **"Directory Assistance Services"** provides listings to callers. Directory Assistance Services may include the option to complete the call at the caller's direction.
- 1.42. **"DS1 Loop"** is a digital Local Loop having a total digital signal speed of 1.544 megabytes per second. DS1 Loops include, but are not limited to, two-wire and

four-wire Copper Loops capable of providing high-bit rate digital subscriber line services, including T1 services.

- 1.43. **“DS3 Loop”** is a digital Local Loop having a total digital signal speed of 44.736 megabytes per second.
- 1.44. **“DSLAM”** refers to a Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer.
- 1.45. **“Duct”** is a single enclosed path to house facilities to provide Telecommunications Services.
- 1.46. **“Effective Date”** is the date referenced in the opening paragraph on page 1 of the Agreement, unless otherwise required by the Commission.
- 1.47. **“Electronic Interface”** means access to operations support systems consisting of preordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair and billing functions.
- 1.48. **“Emergency Response Agency”** is a governmental entity authorized to respond to requests from the public to meet emergencies.
- 1.49. **“Emergency Service Number” (“ESN”)** is a number assigned to the ALI and selective routing databases for all subscriber telephone numbers. The ESN designates a unique combination of fire, police and emergency medical service response agencies that serve the address location of each in-service telephone number.
- 1.50. **“Enhanced Extended Link” (“EEL”)** for purposes of this Agreement refers to the combination of unbundled Network Elements, specifically NID, Loop, multiplexing (MUX) if necessary and Dedicated Transport, in the Embarq Network.
- 1.51. **“Exchange Message Interface System” (“EMI”)** is the Industry standard for exchanging telecommunications message information for billable, non-billable, sample settlement and study records. The EMI is published by ATIS (Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions).
- 1.52. **“End Date”** is the date this Agreement terminates as referenced in 5.1.
- 1.53. **“Enhanced 911 Service” (“E911”)** means a telephone communication service which will automatically route a call dialed “9-1-1” to a designated public safety answering point (PSAP) attendant and will provide to the attendant the calling party’s telephone number and, when possible, the address from which the call is being placed and the Emergency Response agencies responsible for the location from which the call was dialed.
- 1.54. **“FCC”** means the Federal Communications Commission.
- 1.55. **“Fiber-based Collocator”** means any carrier, unaffiliated with Embarq, that maintains a Collocation Arrangement in Embarq’s wire center, with active electrical power supply, and operates a fiber-optic cable or comparable transmission facility that (1) terminates at a Collocation Arrangement within the

Wire Center; (2) leaves Embarq's Wire Center premises; and (3) is owned by a party other than Embarq or any affiliate of Embarq, except as set forth in this definition. Dark fiber obtained from Embarq on an indefeasible right of use basis shall be treated as non-Embarq fiber-optic cable. Two or more Affiliated Fiber-based Collocators in a single Wire Center shall collectively be counted as a single Fiber-based Collocator. For purposes of this definition, the term Affiliate is defined by 47 USC § 153(1) and any relevant interpretation in the Act.

- 1.56. **"Fiber-to-the-curb Loop" ("FTTC Loop")** means a Local Loop consisting of fiber optic cable connecting to a copper distribution plant that is not more than 500 feet from the customer's premises or, in the case of predominantly residential multiple dwelling units ("MDUs"), not more than 500 feet from the MDU's minimum point of entry ("MPOE"). The fiber optic cable in a fiber-to-the curb loop must connect to a copper distribution plant at a serving area interface from which every other copper distribution subloop also is not more than 500 feet from the respective customer's premises.
- 1.57. **"Fiber-to-the-home Loop" ("FTTH Loop")** means a Local Loop consisting entirely of fiber optic cable, whether dark or lit, and serving an end-user's customer premises or, in the case of predominantly residential MDUs, a fiber optic cable, whether dark or lit, that extends to the multiunit premises' MPOE.
- 1.58. **"Grandfathered Service"** means service which is no longer available for new customers and is limited to the current customer at their current locations with certain provisioning limitations, including but not limited to upgrade denials, feature adds/changes and responsible/billing party.
- 1.59. **"High Frequency Portion of the local Loop" ("HFPL")** is defined as the frequency range above the voice band on a Copper Loop facility that is being used to carry analog circuit-switched voice band transmissions provided by Embarq to the end-user customer.
- 1.60. **"Hybrid Loop"** means a Local Loop comprised of both fiber optic cable, usually in the feeder plant, and copper wire or cable usually in the distribution plant.
- 1.61. **"Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier" ("ILEC")** is as defined in the Act.
- 1.62. **"Information Services"** shall have the meaning defined in 47 CFR 51.5.
- 1.63. **"Interexchange Carrier" ("IXC")** means a provider of interexchange Telecommunications Services.
- 1.64. **"Interexchange Service"** shall mean telecommunications service between stations in different exchange areas.
- 1.65. **"ISP-Bound Traffic,"** for the purposes of this Agreement, is defined as traffic that is transmitted to an Internet Service Provider ("ISP") consistent with the ISP Remand Order (FCC 01-131), 16 F.C.C. Rcd. 9151 (2001).
- 1.66. **"Inner Duct" or "Conduit"** shall mean any passage or opening in, on, under, over

or through the Embarq Central Office Building cable or conduit systems.

- 1.67. **“Line Information Data Base” (“LIDB”)** means a Service Control Point (SCP) database that provides for such functions as calling card validation for telephone line number cards issued by Embarq and other entities and validation for collect and billed-to-third services.
- 1.68. **“Live Load Capacity”** as it relates to a CLEC's Collocation Space refers to the structural strength of the floor to support the weight of CLEC's property and equipment installed in the collocated space.
- 1.69. **“Local Loop”** refers to a transmission facility between the main distribution frame [cross-connect], or its equivalent, in an Embarq Central Office or wire center, and up to the demarcation point (e.g., Network Interface Device) at a customer's premises, to which CLEC is granted exclusive use. This includes all electronics, optronics and intermediate devices (including repeaters and load coils) used to establish the transmission path to the customer premises. Local loops include Copper Loops, Hybrid Loops, DS1 loops, DS3 loops, FTTC Loops and FTTH Loops.
- 1.70. **“Local Number Portability” (“LNP”)** means the ability of users of Telecommunications Services to retain, at the same location, existing telecommunications numbers without impairment of quality, reliability, or convenience when switching from one Telecommunications Carrier to another.
- 1.71. **“Local Service Request” (“LSR”)** means an industry standard form or a mutually agreed upon change thereof, used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect local services.
- 1.72. **“Local Traffic”** for the purposes of this Agreement the Parties shall agree that “Local Traffic” means traffic (excluding Commercial Mobile Radio Service “CMRS” traffic) that is originated and terminated within Embarq's local calling area, or mandatory extended area service (EAS) area, as defined by the Commission or, if not defined by the Commission, then as defined in existing Embarq Tariffs. For this purpose, Local Traffic does not include any ISP-Bound Traffic.
- 1.73. **“Mobile Wireless Service”** means any mobile wireless telecommunications service, including any commercial mobile radio service (CMRS). CMRS includes paging, air-ground radiotelephone service and offshore radiotelephone service, as well as mobile telephony services, such as the voice offerings of carriers using cellular radiotelephone, broadband PCS and SMR licenses.
- 1.74. **“Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing” (“MECAB”)** refers to the document prepared by the Billing Committee of the ATIS Ordering and Billing Forum (“OBF”). The MECAB document contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of an access service provided to a customer by two or more providers or by one provider in two or more states within a single LATA.
- 1.75. **“Multiple Exchange Carrier Ordering And Design” (“MECOD”)** refers to the

guidelines for Access Services - Industry Support Interface, a document developed by the Ordering/Provisioning Committee under the auspices of the OBF, which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee ("CLC") of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions ("ATIS"). The MECOD document, published by Telcordia as Special Report SR STS-002643, establishes recommended guidelines for processing orders for Access Service which is to be provided by two or more Telecommunications Carriers.

- 1.76. **"National Emergency Number Association"** ("NENA") is an association with a mission to foster the technological advancement, availability and implementation of 911 nationwide.
- 1.77. **"Network Element"** is as defined in the Act.
- 1.78. **"North American Numbering Plan"** ("NANP") means the plan for the allocation of unique 10-digit directory numbers consisting of a three-digit area code, a three-digit office code, and a four-digit line number. The plan also extends to format variations, prefixes, and special code applications.
- 1.79. **"Numbering Plan Area"** ("NPA") (sometimes referred to as an area code) is the three-digit indicator which is designated by the first three digits of each 10-digit telephone number within the NANP. Each NPA contains 800 possible NXX Codes. There are two general categories of NPA, "Geographic NPAs" and "Non-Geographic NPAs." A "Geographic NPA" is associated with a defined geographic area, and all telephone numbers bearing such NPA are associated with services provided within that geographic area. A "Non-Geographic NPA," also known as a "Service Access Code (SAC Code)" is typically associated with a specialized Telecommunications Service which may be provided across multiple geographic NPA areas; 500, 800, 900, 700, and 888 are examples of Non-Geographic NPAs.
- 1.80. **"NXX," "NXX Code," "COC," "Central Office Code," or "CO Code"** is the three-digit switch entity indicator which is defined by the fourth, fifth and sixth digits of a 10-digit telephone number within NANP.
- 1.81. **"OBF"** means the Ordering and Billing Forum, which functions under the auspices of the CLC of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS).
- 1.82. **"Operator Services"** provides for:
 - 1.82.1. operator handling for call completion (*e.g.*, collect calls);
 - 1.82.2. operator or automated assistance for billing after the subscriber has dialed the called number (*e.g.*, credit card calls); and
 - 1.82.3. special services (*e.g.*, BLV/BLI, Emergency Agency Call).
- 1.83. **"Outside Cable Duct"** shall mean any space located outside the Central Office Building and owned by or under the control of Embarq through which Embarq

runs its cable, conduit or other associated facilities.

- 1.84. **"Parity"** means, subject to the availability, development and implementation of necessary industry standard Electronic Interfaces, the provision by Embarq of services, Network Elements, functionality or telephone numbering resources under this Agreement to CLEC, including provisioning and repair, at least equal in quality to those offered to Embarq, its Affiliates or any other entity that obtains such services, Network Elements, functionality or telephone numbering resources. Until the implementation of necessary Electronic Interfaces, Embarq shall provide such services, Network Elements, functionality or telephone numbering resources on a non-discriminatory basis to CLEC as it provides to its Affiliates or any other entity that obtains such services, Network Elements, functionality or telephone numbering resources.
- 1.85. **"P.01 Transmission Grade Of Service" ("GOS")** means a trunk facility provisioning standard with the statistical probability of no more than one call in 100 blocked on initial attempt during the average busy hour.
- 1.86. **"Parties"** means, jointly, Embarq and CLEC, and no other entity, Affiliate, subsidiary or assign.
- 1.87. **"Party"** means either Embarq or CLEC, and no other entity, Affiliate, subsidiary or assign.
- 1.88. **"Percent Local Usage" ("PLU")** is a calculation which represents the ratio of the local minutes to the sum of local and intraLATA toll minutes between exchange carriers sent over Local Interconnection Trunks. Directory assistance, BLV/BLVI, 900, and 976 transiting calls from other exchange carriers and switched access calls are not included in the calculation of PLU.
- 1.89. **"Physical Collocation"** is as defined in 47 CFR 51.5.
- 1.90. **"Point of Interconnection" ("POI")** is the physical point that establishes the technical interface, the test point, and the operational responsibility hand-off between CLEC and Embarq for the local interconnection of their networks. The POI also establishes the demarcation point to delineate each Party's financial obligations for facility costs.
- 1.91. **"Premises"** is as defined in 47 CFR 51.5.
- 1.92. **"Pre-Order Loop Qualification" ("Loop Qualification")** is an OSS function that includes supplying loop qualification information to CLECs as part of the Pre-ordering Process. Examples of the type of information provided are:
 - 1.92.1. Composition of the loop material, i.e. fiber optics, copper;
 - 1.92.2. Existence, location and type of any electronic or other equipment on the loop, including but not limited to:
 - 1.92.2.1. Digital Loop Carrier ("DLC") or other remote concentration devices;

- 1.92.2.2. Feeder/distribution interfaces;
- 1.92.2.3. Bridge taps;
- 1.92.2.4. Load coils;
- 1.92.2.5. Pair gain devices; or
- 1.92.2.6. Disturbers in the same or adjacent binders.
- 1.92.3. Loop length which is an indication of the approximate loop length, based on a 26-gauge equivalent and is calculated on the basis of Distribution Area distance from the central office;
- 1.92.4. Wire gauge or gauges; and
- 1.92.5. Electrical parameters.
- 1.93. **“Proprietary Information”** shall have the same meaning as Confidential Information.
- 1.94. **“Rate Center”** means the geographic point and corresponding geographic area which are associated with one or more particular NPA-NXX codes which have been assigned to Embarq or CLEC for its provision of basic exchange Telecommunications Services. The “rate center point” is the finite geographic point identified by a specific V&H coordinate, which is used to measure distance-sensitive end user traffic to/from the particular NPA-NXX designations associated with the specific Rate Center. The “rate center area” is the exclusive geographic area identified as the area within which Embarq or CLEC will provide Basic Exchange Telecommunications Services bearing the particular NPA-NXX designations associated with the specific Rate Center. The Rate Center point must be located within the Rate Center area.
- 1.95. **“Routing Point”** means a location which Embarq or CLEC has designated on its own network as the homing (routing) point for traffic inbound to basic exchange Services provided by Embarq or CLEC which bear a certain NPA-NXX designation. The Routing Point is employed to calculate mileage measurements for the distance-sensitive transport element charges of Switched Access Services. Pursuant to Telcordia Practice BR 795-100-100, the Routing Point may be an “End Office” location, or a “LEC Consortium Point of Interconnection.” Pursuant to that same Telcordia Practice, examples of the latter shall be designated by a common language location identifier (CLLI) code with (x)MD or X(x) in positions 9, 10, 11, where (x) may be any alphanumeric A-Z or 0-9. The above referenced Telcordia document refers to the Routing Point as the Rating Point. The Rating Point/Routing Point need not be the same as the Rate Center Point, nor must it be located within the Rate Center Area, but must be in the same LATA as the NPA-NXX.
- 1.96. **“Small Exchange Carrier Access Billing” (“SECAB”)** means the document prepared by the Billing Committee of the OBF. The SECAB document,

published by ATIS as Special Report SR OPT-001856, contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of access and other connectivity services.

- 1.97. **"Selective Routing"** is a service which automatically routes an E911 call to the PSAP that has jurisdictional responsibility for the service address of the telephone that dialed 911, irrespective of telephone company exchange or Wire Center boundaries.
- 1.98. **"Signaling Transfer Point"** ("STP") means a signaling point that performs message routing functions and provides information for the routing of messages between signaling points within or between CCIS networks. An STP transmits, receives and processes CCIS messages.
- 1.99. **"Splitter"** is a device that divides the data and voice signals concurrently moving across the loop, directing the voice traffic through copper tie cables to the switch and the data traffic through another pair of copper tie cables to multiplexing equipment for delivery to the packet-switched network. The Splitter may be directly integrated into the DSLAM equipment or may be externally mounted.
- 1.100. **"Street Index Guide"** ("SIG") is a database defining the geographic area of an E911 Service. It includes an alphabetical list of the street names, high-low house number ranges, community names, and Emergency Service Numbers provided by the counties or their agents to Embarq.
- 1.101. **"Switch"** means a Central Office Switch as defined in this Part A.
- 1.102. **"Synchronous Optical Network"** ("SONET") is an optical interface standard that allows interworking of transmission products from multiple vendors (*i.e.*, mid-span meets). The base rate is 51.84 MHps (OC-1/STS-1 and higher rates are direct multiples of the base rate up to 1.22 GHps).
- 1.103. **"Tandem Office Switches," "Tandem," and "Tandem Switching"** describe Class 4 switches which are used to connect and switch trunk circuits between and among End Office Switches and other tandems.
- 1.104. **"Tariff"** means a filing made at the state or federal level for the provision of a Telecommunications Service by a Telecommunications Carrier that provides for the terms, conditions and pricing of that service. Such filing may be required or voluntary and may or may not be specifically approved by the Commission or FCC.
- 1.105. **"Technically Feasible"** refers solely to technical or operational concerns, rather than economic, space, or site considerations.
- 1.106. **"Tier 1"** Wire Centers are those Embarq Wire Centers that contain at least four Fiber-based Collocators, at least 38,000 Business Lines, or both. Tier 1 Wire Centers also are those Embarq tandem switching locations that have no line-side switching facilities, but nevertheless serve as a point of traffic aggregation accessible by competitive LECs. Once a Wire Center is determined to be a Tier 1 Wire Center, that Wire Center is not subject to later reclassification as a Tier 2 or

Tier 3 Wire Center.

- 1.107. **“Tier 2”** Wire Centers are those Embarq Wire Centers that are not Tier 1 Wire Centers but contain at least three (3) Fiber-based Collocators, at least 24,000 Business Lines, or both. Once a Wire Center is determined to be a Tier 2 Wire Center, that Wire Center is not subject to later reclassification as a Tier 3 Wire Center.
- 1.108. **“Tier 3”** Wire Centers are those Embarq Wire Centers that are not Tier 1 or Tier 2 Wire Centers.
- 1.109. **“Telecommunications”** is as defined in the Act.
- 1.110. **“Telecommunications Carrier”** is as defined in the Act.
- 1.111. **“Telecommunications Service”** is as defined in the Act.
- 1.112. **“Transit Service”** means the delivery of Transit Traffic.
- 1.113. **“Transit Traffic”** means Local Traffic or ISP-Bound Traffic that originated on CLEC’s network, transited through Embarq’s network, and terminated to a third party Telecommunications Carrier’s network or that is originated on a third party Telecommunications Carrier’s network, transited through Embarq, and terminated to CLEC’s network.
- 1.114. **“Virtual Collocation”** is as defined in 47 CFR 51.5.
- 1.115. **Virtual NXX Traffic (“VNXX Traffic”)** – As used in this Agreement, Virtual NXX traffic or VNXX Traffic is defined as calls in which a Party’s customer is assigned a telephone number with an NXX Code (as set forth in the LERG) assigned to a Rate Center that is different from the Rate Center associated with the customer’s actual physical premise location.
- 1.116. **“Wholesale Service”** means Telecommunication Services that Embarq provides at retail to subscribers who are not Telecommunications Carriers as set forth in 47 USC § 251(c)(4) which Embarq provides to resellers at a wholesale rate.
- 1.117. **“Wire center”** is the location of an incumbent LEC local switching facility containing one or more central offices, as defined in part 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Wire Center boundaries define the area in which all customers served by a given Wire Center are located.
- 1.118. **“xDSL”** refers to a generic term for a series of high speed transmission protocols, equipment, and services designed to operate over copper wire. This series includes but is not limited to ADSL, VDSL, SDSL, and others.

PART B – GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

2. SCOPE OF THIS AGREEMENT

- 2.1. This Agreement, including Parts A through L, Tables One and Two and exhibits, specifies the rights and obligations of each Party with respect to the establishment, purchase, and sale of Local Interconnection, Collocation, resale of Telecommunications Services and Unbundled Network Elements. Certain terms used in this Agreement shall have the meanings defined in PART A – DEFINITIONS, or as otherwise elsewhere defined throughout this Agreement. Other terms used but not defined in this Agreement will have the meanings ascribed to them in the Act and in the FCC's and the Commission's rules, regulations and orders. PART B sets forth the general terms and conditions governing this Agreement. The remaining Parts set forth, among other things, descriptions of the services, pricing, technical and business requirements, and physical and network security requirements.

3. NETWORK CHANGES

- 3.1. Embarq shall provide notice of network changes and upgrades in accordance with §§ 51.325 through 51.335 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Embarq may discontinue any interconnection arrangement, Telecommunications Service, or Network Element provided or required hereunder due to network changes or upgrades after providing CLEC notice as required by this Section. Embarq agrees to cooperate with CLEC and/or the appropriate regulatory body in any transition resulting from such discontinuation of service and to minimize the impact to customers, which may result from such discontinuance of service.

4. REGULATORY APPROVALS

- 4.1. This Agreement, and any amendment or modification hereof, will be submitted to the Commission for approval in accordance with § 252 of the Act within thirty (30) Days after obtaining the last required Agreement signature. Embarq and CLEC shall use their best efforts to obtain approval of this Agreement by any regulatory body having jurisdiction over this Agreement. In the event any governmental authority or agency rejects any provision hereof, the Parties shall negotiate promptly and in good faith such revisions as may reasonably be required to achieve approval.
- 4.2. The Parties acknowledge that the respective rights and obligations of each Party as set forth in this Agreement are based on the texts of the Act and the orders, rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the FCC and the Commission as of the Effective Date ("Applicable Rules"). In the event of any amendment of the Act, any effective legislative action or any effective regulatory or judicial order, rule, regulation, arbitration award, dispute resolution procedures under this Agreement or other legal action purporting to apply the provisions of the Act to the Parties or in which the court, FCC or the Commission makes a generic

determination that is generally applicable which revises, modifies or reverses the Applicable Rules (individually and collectively, "Amended Rules"), either Party may, by providing written notice to the other Party, require that the affected provisions of this Agreement be renegotiated in good faith and this Agreement shall be amended accordingly within sixty (60) Days of the date of the notice to reflect the pricing, terms and conditions of each such Amended Rules relating to any of the provisions in this Agreement.

- 4.3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement to the contrary Section 4.2 hereof shall control. Any rates, terms or conditions thus developed or modified shall be substituted in place of those previously in effect and shall be effective under this Agreement as of the effective date established by the Amended Rules, whether such action was commenced before or after the Effective Date of this Agreement. Should the Parties be unable to reach agreement with respect to the applicability of such order or the resulting appropriate modifications to this Agreement, either party may invoke the Dispute Resolution provisions of this Agreement, it being the intent of the parties that this Agreement shall be brought into conformity with the then current obligations under the Act as determined by the Amended Rules. Embarq may charge rates to CLEC under this Agreement that are approved by the Commission in a generic cost proceeding, whether such action was commenced before or after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as of the effective date of the Commission decision.
- 4.4. In the event that as a result of any effective decision, order, or determination of any judicial or regulatory authority with jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof, Embarq determines that it is not required to furnish any service, facility, arrangement, or benefit required to be furnished or provided to CLEC under this Agreement, then Embarq may discontinue any service, facility, arrangement, or benefit ("Discontinued Arrangement") to the extent permitted by any such decision, order, or determination by providing sixty (60) Days written notice to CLEC. Immediately upon provision of such written notice to CLEC, CLEC will be prohibited from ordering and Embarq will not provide new Discontinued Arrangements.

5. TERM AND TERMINATION

- 5.1. This Agreement shall be deemed effective upon the Effective Date first stated above, and continue for a period of two years until [*Enter End Date*] ("End Date"), unless earlier terminated in accordance with this Section 5, provided however that if CLEC has any outstanding past due obligations to Embarq or any of Embarq's affiliates, this Agreement will not be effective until such time as any past due obligations with Embarq are paid in full. This agreement shall become binding upon execution by the Parties. No order or request for services under this Agreement shall be processed before the Effective Date, except as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Parties. No order or request for services under this Agreement shall be processed before CLEC has established a customer account

with Embarq and has completed the Implementation Plan described in this Agreement.

- 5.2. In the event of either Party's material breach of any of the terms or conditions hereof, including the failure to make any undisputed payment when due, the non-defaulting Party may immediately terminate this Agreement in whole or in part if the non-defaulting Party so advises the defaulting Party in writing of the event of the alleged default and the defaulting Party does not remedy the alleged default within sixty (60) Days after written notice thereof. The non-defaulting Party may pursue all available legal and equitable remedies for such breach.
- 5.3. Embarq may terminate this Agreement upon ten (10) Days notice if CLEC is not exchanging traffic with Embarq or has not submitted orders pursuant to this Agreement within one-hundred-eighty (180) Days of the Effective Date. In addition, Embarq reserves the right to terminate this Agreement immediately upon notice from the CLEC that it has ceased doing business in this state. In addition to notice from CLEC, Embarq may utilize any publicly available information in concluding that CLEC is no longer doing business in this state, and immediately terminate this Agreement.
- 5.4. Termination of this Agreement for any cause shall not release either Party from any liability which at the time of termination has already accrued to the other Party or which thereafter may accrue in respect to any act or omission prior to termination or from any obligation which is expressly stated in this Agreement to survive termination.
- 5.5. Notwithstanding the above, should Embarq sell or trade substantially all the assets in an exchange or group of exchanges that Embarq uses to provide Telecommunications Services, then Embarq may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part as to that particular exchange or group of exchanges upon sixty (60) Days prior written notice.

6. POST EXPIRATION INTERIM SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

- 6.1. No later than one-hundred sixty (160) Days prior to the End Date, CLEC will provide Embarq notice to commence negotiations pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Act for terms, conditions and rates for a successor agreement to be effective on or before the End Date.
- 6.2. In the event that this Agreement expires under Section 5.1, CLEC has submitted a notice to commence negotiations under Section 6.1, and the Parties have not executed a successor agreement at the time of expiration, provided the Parties are actually in arbitration or mediation before the Commission or FCC under § 252 of the Act or the Parties have a written agreement to continue negotiations under § 252, it is the intent of the Parties to provide in this Section for post-expiration interim service arrangements between the Parties so that service to their respective end users will not be interrupted should a new agreement not be consummated prior to the End Date. Therefore, except in the case of termination

as a result of the events under Sections 5.2, 5.4, and 5.5, services that had been available under this Agreement, were ordered prior to the End Date and are actually in service as of the End Date may continue uninterrupted after the End Date at the written request of either Party only until the earlier to occur of (i) the Parties execute a successor agreement, (ii) the issuance of an order, whether a final non-appealable order or not, by the Commission or FCC, approving an agreement resulting from the resolution of the issues set forth in such arbitration or mediation request, or (iii) the first anniversary of the End Date.

6.3. In the event that on the End Date the Parties have not executed a successor agreement and Section 6.2 does not apply or no longer applies, Embarq will continue to provide services pursuant to one of the following:

6.3.1. Such standard terms and conditions or tariffs approved by and made generally available by the Commission, if they exist; or

6.3.2. An existing agreement between Embarq and another carrier adopted by CLEC for the remaining term of that agreement. If CLEC fails to designate an agreement under this subsection, then Embarq may designate such agreement.

7. CHARGES, BILLING AND PAYMENT

7.1. In consideration of the services provided by Embarq under this Agreement, CLEC shall pay the charges set forth in Part C subject to the provisions of Section 4 hereof and subject to the dispute provisions provided herein. Additional billing procedures for charges incurred by CLEC hereunder are set forth in ~~Part J~~.

7.2. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, the Parties shall pay invoices within thirty (30) Days from the bill date shown on the invoice.

7.2.1. For invoices not paid when due, late payment charges will be assessed under Section 7.4.

7.2.2. If the payment due date is a Saturday, Sunday or a designated bank holiday, payment shall be made the next business day.

7.2.3. If an invoice is not paid within forty-five (45) Days after the bill date, Embarq may suspend processing new orders and cancel any pending orders.

7.2.4. If the account remains delinquent sixty (60) Days after the bill date, Embarq will terminate all services under this Agreement.

7.3. If the CLEC disputes any charges shown on an invoice, the following billing dispute procedures are the exclusive means for challenging such charges, and the failure by CLEC to follow such procedures will result in the suspension or termination of service for non-payment of invoiced amounts:

- 7.3.1. Any billing dispute must be submitted in writing, itemizing the particular charges that CLEC is challenging, and explaining in reasonable detail the specific grounds for disputing the validity or applicability of such charges.
- 7.3.2. Billing disputes must be submitted to the National Dispute Center on the billing dispute form designated by Embarq, along with any payment for undisputed charges that are shown on such invoice. The billing dispute form may be accompanied by any additional, relevant materials submitted by CLEC.
- 7.3.3. The payment due date of an invoice shall be suspended with respect to disputed amounts on such invoice, but only if a written, itemized dispute has been filed in compliance with Section 7.3 within thirty (30) Days of the bill date. Such payment due date for the disputed amounts shall remain suspended during negotiations between the Parties or pending a determination by the Commission under the dispute resolution provisions of Section 25.
- 7.3.4. Billing disputes that are submitted in a timely manner in compliance with Section 7.3 shall not have the effect of suspending the payment due date with respect to *billed amounts that are not in dispute*, notwithstanding the existence of a dispute with respect to other amounts billed on the same invoice.
- 7.3.5. The failure to submit a written dispute in compliance with Section 7.3 within thirty (30) Days of a bill date shall not preclude a Party from thereafter submitting a dispute or seeking a billing adjustment for any charges which have been paid, but any billing dispute which is not submitted within thirty (30) Days of a bill date or which is not submitted in writing in compliance with Section 7.3 shall not be effective to suspend the payment due date for the disputed amount or to prevent late charges and possible suspension or termination of service for non-payment of billed amounts in accordance with Section 7.2. Payment of billed amounts that are subsequently disputed or which become the subject of a request for adjustment shall not constitute or be deemed to represent a waiver of a Party's right to submit a dispute or seek an adjustment of such Party's account with respect to such paid amounts, and the paying Party shall not be required to designate any such payment as "conditional" or "under protest" in order to submit a dispute or seek a subsequent adjustment with respect to amounts which have previously been paid. A dispute which is filed more than 30 Days after a bill date or a request for an account adjustment must be submitted in writing in the same manner as provided for in Section 7.3 with respect to disputes, and such requests shall be subject to the Dispute Resolution provisions of this Agreement.
- 7.4. Late payment charges on invoices not paid when due (or any portion thereof which is not subject to a timely filed dispute) will be assessed until the amount

due is paid in full, and shall be calculated using a rate equal to the lesser of the following:

- 7.4.1. the total amount due times the highest rate (in decimal value) which may be levied by law for commercial transactions, compounded daily for the number of days from the payment due date to and including the date the customer actually makes the payment to Embarq, or
- 7.4.2. the total amount due multiplied by a factor of 0.000329 times the number of days which occurred between the payment due date and (including) the date CLEC actually makes the payment to Embarq.
- 7.5. Embarq shall credit CLEC for incorrect Connectivity Billing charges including without limitation: overcharges, services ordered or requested but not delivered, interrupted services, services of poor quality and installation problems if caused by Embarq. Such reimbursements shall be set forth in the appropriate section of the Connectivity Bill pursuant to CABS, or SECAB standards.
- 7.6. Embarq will bill CLEC for message provisioning and, if applicable, data tape charges related to exchange access records. Embarq will bill CLEC for the records at the rates on Table One. If CLEC requests additional copies of the monthly invoice, Embarq may also bill CLEC for the additional copies.
- 7.7. Embarq shall comply with various industry, OBF, and other standards referred to throughout this Agreement. Embarq will review any changes to industry standards, and implement the changes within the industry-defined window. Embarq will notify CLEC of any deviations to the standards.
- 7.8. Where Parties have established interconnection, Embarq and the CLEC agree to conform to MECAB and MECOD guidelines. They will exchange Billing Account Reference and Bill Account Cross Reference information and will coordinate Initial Billing Company/Subsequent Billing Company billing cycles. Embarq will provide CLEC the appropriate records to bill exchange access charges to the IXC. Embarq will capture EMI records for inward terminating calls and send them to CLEC, as appropriate, in a daily or other agreed upon interval, via and agreed upon media (e.g.: Connect Direct or CD Rom). Upon Embarq's request, CLEC will provide Embarq the appropriate records to bill exchange access charges to the IXC. CLEC will capture EMI records for inward terminating calls and send them to Embarq, as appropriate, in a daily or other agreed upon interval, via and agreed upon media (e.g.: Connect Direct or CD Rom).
- 7.9. Embarq shall provide a single point of contact for handling of any data exchange questions or problems that may arise during the implementation and performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 7.10. Revenue Protection. Embarq shall make available to CLEC, at Parity with what Embarq provides to itself, its Affiliates and other local telecommunications CLECs, all present and future fraud prevention or revenue protection features,

including prevention, detection, or control functionality embedded within any of the Network Elements. These features include, but are not limited to screening codes, information digits assigned such as information digits '29' and '70' which indicate prison and COCOT pay phone originating line types respectively, call blocking of domestic, international, 800, 888, 900, NPA-976, 700, 500 and specific line numbers, and the capability to require end-user entry of an authorization code for dial tone. Embarq shall, when technically capable and consistent with the implementation schedule for Operations Support Systems (OSS), additionally provide partitioned access to fraud prevention, detection and control functionality within pertinent OSS.

- 7.11. Embarq reserves the right to secure the account with a suitable form of security deposit in accordance with Section 37.

8. AUDITS AND EXAMINATIONS

- 8.1. Each Party to this Agreement will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of its data as submitted to the other Party involved. Subject to each Party's reasonable security requirements and except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, either Party, at its own expense, may audit the other Party's books, records and other documents directly related to billing and invoicing once in any twelve (12) month period for the purpose of evaluating the accuracy of the other Party's billing and invoicing. "Audit" shall mean a comprehensive review of bills for services performed under this Agreement; "Examination" shall mean an inquiry into a specific element of or process related to bills for services performed under this Agreement. Either Party (the "Requesting Party") may perform one (1) Audit per twelve (12) month period commencing with the Effective Date, with the assistance of the other Party, which will not be unreasonably withheld. The Audit period will include no more than the preceding twelve (12) month period as of the date of the Audit request. The Requesting Party may perform Examinations, as it deems necessary, with the assistance of the other Party, which will not be unreasonably withheld.
- 8.2. Upon thirty (30) Days written notice by the Requesting Party to Audited Party, Requesting Party shall have the right through its authorized representative to make an Audit, during normal business hours, of any records, accounts and processes which contain information bearing upon the billing and invoicing of the services provided under this Agreement. Within the above-described thirty (30) Day period, the Parties shall reasonably agree upon the scope of the Audit or Examination, the documents and processes to be reviewed, and the time, place and manner in which the Audit or Examination shall be performed. Audited Party agrees to provide Audit or Examination support, including appropriate access to and use of Audited Party's facilities (e.g.: conference rooms, telephones, copying machines).
- 8.3. Each party shall bear its own expenses in connection with the conduct of the Audit or Examination. The reasonable cost of special data extraction required by the Requesting Party to conduct the Audit or Examination will be paid for by the

Requesting Party. For purposes of this Section 8.3, a "Special Data Extraction" shall mean the creation of an output record or informational report (from existing data files) that is not created in the normal course of business. If any program is developed to Requesting Party's specifications and at Requesting Party's expense, Requesting Party shall specify at the time of request whether the program is to be retained by Audited Party for reuse for any subsequent Audit or Examination.

- 8.4. Adjustments based on the audit findings may be applied to the twelve (12) month period included in the audit. Adjustments, credits or payments shall be made and any corrective action shall commence within thirty (30) Days from the requesting Party's receipt of the final audit report to compensate for any errors or omissions which are disclosed by such Audit or Examination and are agreed to by the Parties. Interest shall be calculated in accordance with Section 7.4 above.
- 8.5. Neither such right to examine and audit nor the right to receive an adjustment shall be affected by any statement to the contrary appearing on checks or otherwise, unless such statement expressly waiving such right appears in writing, is signed by the authorized representative of the Party having such right and is delivered to the other Party in a manner sanctioned by this Agreement.
- 8.6. This Section shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement for a period of one (1) year after expiration or termination of this Agreement.

9. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

- 9.1. Any intellectual property which originates from or is developed by a Party shall remain in the exclusive ownership of that Party. Intellectual property includes, without limitation, patent, copyright, trade mark, trade secrets, and other proprietary rights. Each Party grants to the other party a limited license to its intellectual property solely to the extent necessary for the use of any facility or equipment (including software) or for the receipt of services as provided under this Agreement. Except for such limited license to use its intellectual property, no license in patent, copyright, trademark or trade secret, or other proprietary or intellectual property right now or hereafter owned, controlled or licensable by a Party, is granted to the other Party or shall be implied or arise by estoppel.
- 9.2. CLEC acknowledges that its right under this Agreement for Local Interconnection with Embarq's network and to unbundled and/or combine Embarq's Network Elements may be subject to or limited by intellectual property rights and contract rights of third parties. Embarq agrees to use its best efforts to obtain for CLEC, third party intellectual property rights, under commercially reasonable terms, to each unbundled Network Element necessary for CLEC to use such unbundled Network Element in the same manner as Embarq.
- 9.3. Embarq shall have no obligations to attempt to obtain for CLEC any third party intellectual property right(s) that would permit CLEC to use any unbundled Network Element in a different manner than used by Embarq.

- 9.4. To the extent not prohibited by a contract with the vendor of the Network Element sought by CLEC that contains intellectual property licenses, Embarq shall reveal to CLEC the name of the vendor, the intellectual property rights licensed to Embarq under the vendor contract and the terms of the contract (excluding cost terms). Embarq shall, at CLEC's request, contact the vendor to attempt to obtain permission to reveal additional contract details to CLEC.
- 9.5. All costs associated with the extension of third party intellectual property rights to CLEC pursuant to Section 9.2, including the cost of the license extension itself and the costs associated with the effort to obtain the license, shall be part of the cost of providing the unbundled Network Element to which the intellectual property rights relate and apportioned to all requesting CLEC using that unbundled Network Element including Embarq.
- 9.6. Embarq hereby conveys no licenses to use such third party intellectual property rights and makes no warranties, express or implied, concerning CLEC's rights with respect to such third party intellectual property rights and contract rights, including whether such rights will be violated by such Local Interconnection or unbundling and/or combining of Network Elements (including combining with CLEC's use of other functions, facilities, products or services furnished under this Agreement). Any licenses or warranties for intellectual property rights associated with unbundled network elements are vendor licenses and warranties and are a part of the third party intellectual property rights Embarq agrees in Section 9.2 to use its best efforts to obtain.

10. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

- 10.1. Neither Party, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants or employees shall be liable for damages arising from errors, mistakes, omissions, interruptions, or delays in the course of establishing, furnishing, rearranging, moving, terminating, changing, providing or failing to provide services or facilities (including the obtaining or furnishing of information with respect thereof or with respect to users of the services or facilities) in the absence of willful misconduct.
- 10.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall Embarq's liability to CLEC for a service outage exceed an amount equal to the proportionate charge for the service(s) or unbundled element(s) provided for the period during which the service was affected.
- 10.3. Neither Party shall be responsible to the other for any indirect, special, consequential or punitive damages, including (without limitation) damages for loss of anticipated profits or revenue or other economic loss in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted, or done hereunder (collectively "Consequential Damages"), whether arising in contract or tort except that the foregoing shall not limit a Party's obligation under Section 11 to indemnify, defend, and hold the other Party harmless against amounts payable to third parties.

- 10.4. EMBARQ SHALL BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGE TO OR DESTRUCTION OF CLEC'S EQUIPMENT AND OTHER PREMISES ONLY IF SUCH DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION IS CAUSED BY EMBARQ'S SOLE NEGLIGENCE OR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT.

11. INDEMNIFICATION

- 11.1. Each Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the other Party from and against claims by third parties for damage to tangible personal or real property and/or personal injuries to the extent caused by the negligence or willful misconduct or omission of the indemnifying Party.
- 11.2. CLEC shall indemnify and hold harmless Embarq from all claims by CLEC's subscribers.
- 11.3. Embarq shall indemnify and hold harmless CLEC from all claims by Embarq's subscribers.
- 11.4. The indemnifying Party under this Section agrees to defend any suit brought against the other Party either individually or jointly with the indemnified Party for any such loss, injury, liability, claim or demand.
- 11.5. The indemnified Party agrees to notify the other Party promptly, in writing, of any written claims, lawsuits, or demands for which it is claimed that the indemnifying Party is responsible under this Section and to cooperate in every reasonable way to facilitate defense or settlement of claims.
- 11.6. The indemnifying Party shall have complete control over defense of the case and over the terms of any proposed settlement or compromise thereof. The indemnifying Party shall not be liable under this Section for settlement by the indemnified Party of any claim, lawsuit, or demand, if the indemnifying Party has not approved the settlement in advance, unless the indemnifying Party has had the defense of the claim, lawsuit, or demand tendered to it in writing and has failed to promptly assume such defense. In the event of such failure to assume defense, the indemnifying Party shall be liable for any reasonable settlement made by the indemnified Party without approval of the indemnifying Party.
- 11.7. When the lines or services of other companies and CLECs are used in establishing connections to and/or from points not reached by a Party's lines, neither Party shall be liable for any act or omission of the other companies or carriers.
- 11.8. In addition to its indemnity obligations hereunder, each Party shall, to the extent allowed by law or Commission Order, provide, in its tariffs and contracts with its subscribers that relate to any Telecommunications Services provided or contemplated under this Agreement, that in no case shall such Party or any of its agents, contractors or others retained by such Party be liable to any subscriber or third party for
- 11.8.1. any loss relating to or arising out of this Agreement, whether in contract or tort, that exceeds the amount such Party would have

charged the applicable subscriber for the service(s) or function(s) that gave rise to such loss, and

- 11.8.2. Consequential Damages (as defined in Section 10 above).
- 11.9 If CLEC has physical collocations under this Agreement, CLEC shall also indemnify and hold Embarq harmless from any and all claims arising from:
 - 11.9.1 CLEC's use of the Collocation Space;
 - 11.9.2 the conduct of CLEC's business or from any activity, work or things done, permitted or suffered by CLEC in or about the Collocation Space or elsewhere;
 - 11.9.3 any and all claims arising from any breach or default in the performance of any obligation on CLEC's part to be performed under the terms of this Agreement; and
 - 11.9.4 any negligence of the CLEC, or any of CLEC's agents, and fees, expenses and liabilities incurred in the defense of any such claim or any action or proceeding brought thereon.
 - 11.9.5 If any action or proceeding is brought against Embarq by reason of any such claim, CLEC, upon notice from Embarq, shall defend same at CLEC's expense employing counsel satisfactory to Embarq.
- 11.10 ILEC shall at all times indemnify, defend, save and hold harmless Embarq from any claims, liens, demands, charges, encumbrances, litigation and judgments arising directly or indirectly out of any use, occupancy or activity of CLEC, or out of any work performed, material furnished, or obligations incurred by CLEC in, upon or otherwise in connection with the Collocation Space. CLEC shall give Embarq written notice at least ten (10) Business Days prior to the commencement of any such work on the Collocation Space in order to afford Embarq the opportunity of filing appropriate notices of non-responsibility. However, failure by Embarq to give notice does not reduce CLEC's liability under this Section.
- 11.11 If any claim or lien is filed against the Collocation Space, or any action or proceeding is instituted affecting the title to the Collocation Space, CLEC shall give Embarq written notice thereof as soon as CLEC obtains such knowledge.
- 11.12 CLEC shall, at its expense, within thirty (30) Days after filing of any lien of record, obtain the discharge and release thereof or post a bond in an amount sufficient to accomplish such discharge and release. Nothing contained herein shall prevent Embarq, at the cost and for the account of CLEC, from obtaining such discharge and release if CLEC fails or refuses to do the same within the thirty-day period.
- 11.13 If CLEC has first discharged the lien as provided by law, CLEC may, at CLEC's expense, contest any mechanic's lien in any manner permitted by law.

12. INSURANCE

- 12.1. During the term of this Agreement, CLEC shall carry, and shall cause any subcontractors to carry, with financially reputable insurers which are licensed to do business in all jurisdictions where any property is located, not less than the following insurance:
- 12.2. Commercial General Liability with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence and aggregate for bodily injury, property damage and personal and advertising injury liability insurance to include coverage for contractual and products/completed operations liability, naming Embarq as additional insured;
- 12.3. Business Auto liability, including all owned, non-owned and hired automobiles, in an amount of not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit per accident for bodily injury and property damage liability, naming Embarq as additional insured;
- 12.4. Workers Compensation as provided for in the jurisdiction where the Property is located, with an Employer's Liability limit of not less than \$500,000 per accident or disease; and
- 12.5. Umbrella or excess liability in an amount not less than \$5,000,000 per occurrence and aggregate in excess of the above-referenced Commercial General, Business Auto and Employer's Liability, naming Embarq as additional insured; and
- 12.6. "All Risk" property insurance on a full replacement cost basis insuring CLEC's property situated on or within the Property, naming Embarq as loss payee. CLEC may elect to insure business interruption and contingent business interruption, as it is agreed that Embarq has no liability for loss of profit or revenues should an interruption of service occur.
- 12.7. Nothing contained in this Section shall limit CLEC's liability to Embarq to the limits of insurance certified or carried.
- 12.8. All policies required of the CLEC shall contain evidence of the insurer's waiver of the right of subrogation against Embarq for any insured loss covered thereunder. All policies of insurance shall be written as primary policies and not contributing with or in excess of the coverage, if any, that Embarq may carry.
- 12.9. CLEC shall furnish to Embarq a certificate or certificates of insurance, satisfactory in form and content to Embarq, evidencing that the above coverage is in force and has been endorsed to guarantee that the coverage will not be cancelled without first giving at least thirty (30) Days prior written notice to Embarq.

13. BRANDING

- 13.1. CLEC shall provide the exclusive interface to CLEC subscribers, except as CLEC shall otherwise specify for the reporting of trouble or other matters identified by CLEC for which Embarq may directly communicate with CLEC subscribers. In

those instances where CLEC requests that Embarq personnel interface with CLEC subscribers, such Embarq personnel shall inform the CLEC subscribers that they are representing CLEC, or such brand as CLEC may specify.

- 13.2. Other business materials furnished by Embarq to CLEC subscribers shall bear no corporate name, logo, trademark or tradename.
- 13.3. Except as specifically permitted by a Party, in no event shall either Party provide information to the other Party's subscribers about the other Party or the other Party's products or services.
- 13.4. Embarq shall share pertinent details of Embarq's training approaches related to branding with CLEC to be used by Embarq to assure that Embarq meets the branding requirements agreed to by the Parties.
- 13.5. This Section shall not confer on either Party any rights to the service marks, trademarks and/or trade names owned by or used in connection with services by the other Party, except as expressly permitted in writing by the other Party.

14. REMEDIES

- 14.1. Except as otherwise provided herein, all rights of termination, cancellation or other remedies prescribed in this Agreement, or otherwise available, are cumulative and are not intended to be exclusive of other remedies to which the injured Party may be entitled in case of any breach or threatened breach by the other Party of any provision of this Agreement, and use of one or more remedies shall not bar use of any other remedy for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Agreement.

15. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PUBLICITY

- 15.1. All information which is disclosed by one Party ("Disclosing Party") to the other ("Recipient") in connection with this Agreement, or acquired in the course of performance of this Agreement, shall be deemed confidential and proprietary to the Disclosing Party and subject to this Agreement, such information includes but is not limited to, orders for services, usage information in any form, and CPNI as that term is defined by the Act and the rules and regulations of the FCC ("Confidential Information").
- 15.2. During the term of this Agreement, and for a period of five (5) year thereafter, Recipient shall
 - 15.2.1. use Confidential Information only for the purpose of performing under this Agreement,
 - 15.2.2. hold Confidential Information in confidence and disclose it only to employees or agents who have a need to know it in order to perform under this Agreement, and

- 15.2.3. safeguard Confidential Information from unauthorized use or Disclosure using no less than the degree of care with which Recipient safeguards its own Confidential Information.
- 15.3. Recipient shall have no obligation to safeguard Confidential Information
 - 15.3.1. which was in the Recipient's possession free of restriction prior to its receipt from Disclosing Party,
 - 15.3.2. which becomes publicly known or available through no breach of this Agreement by Recipient,
 - 15.3.3. which is rightfully acquired by Recipient free of restrictions on its Disclosure, or
 - 15.3.4. which is independently developed by personnel of Recipient to whom the Disclosing Party's Confidential Information had not been previously disclosed.
- 15.4. Recipient may disclose Confidential Information if required by law, a court, or governmental agency, if the Disclosing Party has been notified of the requirement promptly after Recipient becomes aware of the requirement, and the Recipient undertakes all lawful measures to avoid disclosing such information until Disclosing Party has had reasonable time to obtain a protective order. Recipient will comply with any protective order that covers the Confidential Information to be disclosed.
- 15.5. Each Party agrees that in the event of a breach of this Section 15 by Recipient or its representatives, Disclosing Party shall be entitled to equitable relief, including injunctive relief and specific performance. Such remedies shall not be exclusive, but shall be in addition to all other remedies available at law or in equity.
- 15.6. Unless otherwise agreed, neither Party shall publish or use the other Party's logo, trademark, service mark, name, language, pictures, symbols or words from which the other Party's name may reasonably be inferred or implied in any product, service, advertisement, promotion, or any other publicity matter, except that nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit a Party from engaging in valid comparative advertising. This Section 15.6 shall confer no rights on a Party to the service marks, trademarks and trade names owned or used in connection with services by the other Party or its Affiliates, except as expressly permitted by the other Party.
- 15.7. Neither Party shall produce, publish, or distribute any press release nor other publicity referring to the other Party or its Affiliates, or referring to this Agreement, without the prior written approval of the other Party. Each party shall obtain the other Party's prior approval before discussing this Agreement in any press or media interviews. In no event shall either Party mischaracterize the contents of this Agreement in any public statement or in any representation to a governmental entity or member thereof.

- 15.8. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Section 15, nothing herein shall be construed as limiting the rights of either Party with respect to its customer information under any applicable law, including without limitation § 222 of the Act.

16. DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES

- 16.1. EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED ELSEWHERE IN THIS AGREEMENT TO THE CONTRARY, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO QUALITY, FUNCTIONALITY OR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NO REPRESENTATION OR STATEMENT MADE BY EITHER PARTY OR ANY OF ITS AGENTS OR EMPLOYEES, ORAL OR WRITTEN, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY SPECIFICATIONS, DESCRIPTIONS OR STATEMENTS PROVIDED OR MADE SHALL BE BINDING UPON EITHER PARTY AS A WARRANTY.

17. ASSIGNMENT AND SUBCONTRACT

- 17.1. If any Affiliate of either Party succeeds to that portion of the business of such Party that is responsible for, or entitled to, any rights, obligations, duties, or other interests under this Agreement, such Affiliate may succeed to those rights, obligations, duties, and interest of such Party under this Agreement. In the event of any such succession hereunder, the successor shall expressly undertake in writing to the other Party the performance and liability for those obligations and duties as to which it is succeeding a Party to this Agreement. Thereafter, the successor Party shall be deemed CLEC or Embarq and the original Party shall be relieved of such obligations and duties, except for matters arising out of events occurring prior to the date of such undertaking.
- 17.2. Except as provided in Section 17.1, any assignment of this Agreement or of the work to be performed, in whole or in part, or of any other interest of a Party hereunder, without the other Party's written consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, shall be void.

18. GOVERNING LAW

- 18.1. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the Act, the FCC's Rules and Regulations and orders of the Commission, except insofar as state law may control any aspect of this Agreement, in which case the domestic laws of the Commission's state, without regard to its conflicts of laws principles, shall govern.

19. RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES

- 19.1. It is the intention of the Parties that each Party shall be an independent contractor and nothing contained herein shall constitute the Parties as joint venturers, partners, employees or agents of one another, and neither Party shall have the right or power to bind or obligate the other.

20. NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES

- 20.1. The provisions of this Agreement are for the benefit of the Parties hereto and not for any other person, and this Agreement shall not provide any person not a party hereto with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, right of action, or other right in excess of those existing without reference hereto. This shall not be construed to prevent CLEC from providing its Telecommunications Services to other carriers.

21. NOTICES

- 21.1. Except as otherwise provided herein, all notices or other communication hereunder shall be deemed to have been duly given when made in writing and delivered in person or deposited in the United States mail, certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested and addressed as follows:

If to "Customer":

If to Embarq:

Director - Wholesale Markets
Embarq
KSOPKB0401-413
9300 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66212

With a copy to:

With a copy to:

- 21.2. If delivery, other than certified mail, return receipt requested, is used to give notice, a receipt of such delivery shall be obtained and the notice shall be effective when received. If delivery via certified mail, return receipt requested, is used, notice shall be effective when sent. The address to which notices or communications may be given to either Party may be changed by written notice given by such Party to the other pursuant to this Section.

22. WAIVERS

- 22.1. No waiver of any provisions of this Agreement and no consent to any default under this Agreement shall be effective unless the same shall be in writing and properly executed by or on behalf of the Party against whom such waiver or consent is claimed.

- 22.2. No course of dealing or failure of any Party to strictly enforce any term, right, or condition of this Agreement in any instance shall be construed as a general waiver or relinquishment of such term, right or condition.
- 22.3. Waiver by either Party of any default by the other Party shall not be deemed a waiver of any other default.

23. SURVIVAL

- 23.1. Termination of this Agreement, or any part hereof, for any cause shall not release either Party from any liability which at the time of termination had already accrued to the other Party or which thereafter accrues in any respect to any act or omission occurring prior to the termination or from an obligation which is expressly stated in this Agreement to survive termination including but not limited to Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 20, 22, and 25.

24. FORCE MAJEURE

- 24.1. Neither Party shall be held liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement from any cause beyond its control and without its fault or negligence, such as acts of God, acts of civil or military authority, embargoes, epidemics, war, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, power blackouts, strikes, work stoppage affecting a supplier or unusually severe weather. No delay or other failure to perform shall be excused pursuant to this Section 24 unless delay or failure and consequences thereof are beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Party claiming excusable delay or other failure to perform. Subject to Sections 4.4, 5.2, 5.2, and 5.5 hereof, in the event of any such excused delay in the performance of a Party's obligation(s) under this Agreement, the due date for the performance of the original obligation(s) shall be extended by a term equal to the time lost by reason of the delay. In the event of such delay, the delayed Party shall perform its obligations at a performance level no less than that which it uses for its own operations. In the event of such performance delay or failure by Embarq, Embarq agrees to resume performance in a nondiscriminatory manner and not favor its own provision of Telecommunications Services above that of CLEC.

25. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 25.1. The Parties recognize and agree that the Commission has continuing jurisdiction to implement and enforce all terms and conditions of this Agreement, except those services in Part I (non-251 services). Accordingly, the Parties agree that any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement that the Parties cannot resolve, other than Part I (non-251 services), may be submitted to the Commission for resolution, in the manner provided for herein. The dispute resolution provisions of this Section shall not preclude the Parties from seeking relief available in any other forum.

- 25.2. A Party may not submit a dispute to the Commission for resolution unless at least sixty (60) Days have elapsed after the Party asserting the dispute has given written notice of such dispute to the other Party. Such notice must explain in reasonable detail the specific circumstances and grounds for each disputed item, which shall include the specific information required in Section 7.3 for billing disputes. If a Party gives notice of a billing dispute more than thirty (30) Days after the billing date and has not paid the disputed amounts by the payment due date, then the notice of such dispute shall be deemed to have been given thirty (30) Days after the billing date for purposes of calculating the time period before such dispute may be submitted to the Commission.
- 25.3. The Parties shall meet or confer as often as they reasonably deem necessary in order to discuss the dispute and negotiate in good faith in an effort to resolve such dispute. The specific format for such discussions will be left to the discretion of the Parties, provided, however, that all reasonable requests for relevant, non-privileged, information made by one Party to the other Party shall be honored, and provided that the following terms and conditions shall apply:
- 25.3.1. If Embarq provides written notice to the CLEC that a billing dispute has been denied, stating the grounds for such determination, then the CLEC shall have ten (10) Days in which to either pay the disputed amounts or to send written notice to the National Dispute Center advising that the CLEC disagrees with the determination by Embarq, and such notice may be accompanied by any additional, relevant materials submitted by CLEC. Failure by the CLEC to make a timely response to a notice of denial by Embarq shall result in lifting the suspension of the payment due date for such disputed invoice, and the possible assessment of late charges and suspension or termination of service for non-payment of billed amount in accordance with Section 7.2.
- 25.3.2. Failure by the CLEC to make a timely response to a notice of denial by Embarq shall also preclude the CLEC from thereafter requesting an escalation of the same dispute under Section 25.4, although the CLEC may file a petition in compliance with Section 25.5.
- 25.4. If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute in the normal course of business within thirty (30) Days after delivery of notice of the Dispute, then upon the request of either Party, the dispute shall be escalated to other representatives of each Party that have authority to settle the dispute, and such escalation may be repeated every thirty (30) Days during which negotiations continue. Referral of a dispute by a Party to its legal counsel shall be considered an escalation for purposes of this paragraph.
- 25.5. If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute within sixty (60) Days after delivery of the initial notice of the dispute, then either Party may file a petition or complaint with the Commission seeking resolution of the dispute. The petition or complaint shall include a statement that both Parties have agreed to request an

expedited resolution by the Commission within sixty (60) Days from the date on which the petition or complaint was filed with the Commission.

- 25.6. If the Commission appoints an expert(s) or other facilitator(s) to assist in its decision making, each Party shall pay half of the fees and expenses so incurred.
- 25.7. During the Commission proceeding each Party shall continue to perform its obligations under this Agreement provided, however, that neither Party shall be required to act in any unlawful fashion.
- 25.8. A dispute which has been resolved by a written settlement agreement between the Parties or pursuant to a determination by the Commission may not be resubmitted under the dispute resolution process.

26. COOPERATION ON FRAUD

- 26.1. The Parties agree that they shall cooperate with one another to investigate, minimize and take corrective action in cases of fraud. The Parties' fraud minimization procedures are to be cost effective and implemented so as not to unduly burden or harm one party as compared to the other.

27. TAXES

- 27.1. For purposes of this Section, the terms "taxes" and "fees" shall include but not be limited to federal, state or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts or other taxes or tax-like fees of whatever nature and however designated (including Tariff surcharges and any fees, charges or other payments, contractual or otherwise, for the use of public streets or rights of way, whether designated as franchise fees or otherwise) imposed, or sought to be imposed, on or with respect to the services furnished hereunder or measured by the charges or payments therefore, excluding any taxes levied on income.
- 27.2. Taxes and Fees Imposed Directly On Either Providing Party or Purchasing Party.
 - 27.2.1. Taxes and fees imposed on the providing Party, which are not permitted or required to be passed on by the providing Party to its customer, shall be borne and paid by the providing Party.
 - 27.2.2. Taxes and fees imposed on the purchasing Party, which are not required to be collected and/or remitted by the providing Party, shall be borne and paid by the purchasing Party.
- 27.3. Taxes and Fees Imposed on Purchasing Party but Collected And Remitted By Providing Party.
 - 27.3.1. Taxes and fees imposed on the purchasing Party shall be borne by the purchasing Party, even if the obligation to collect and/or remit such taxes or fees is placed on the providing Party.

- 27.3.2. To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and/or fees shall be shown as separate items on applicable billing documents between the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the purchasing Party shall remain liable for any such taxes and fees regardless of whether they are actually billed by the providing Party at the time that the respective service is billed.
 - 27.3.3. If the purchasing Party determines that in its opinion any such taxes or fees are not payable, the providing Party shall not bill such taxes or fees to the purchasing Party if the purchasing Party provides written certification, reasonably satisfactory to the providing Party, stating that it is exempt or otherwise not subject to the tax or fee, setting forth the basis therefore, and satisfying any other requirements under applicable law. If any authority seeks to collect any such tax or fee that the purchasing Party has determined and certified not to be payable, or any such tax or fee that was not billed by the providing Party, the purchasing Party may contest the same in good faith, at its own expense. In any such contest, the purchasing Party shall promptly furnish the providing Party with copies of all filings in any proceeding, protest, or legal challenge, all rulings issued in connection therewith, and all correspondence between the purchasing Party and the taxing authority.
 - 27.3.4. In the event that all or any portion of an amount sought to be collected must be paid in order to contest the imposition of any such tax or fee, or to avoid the existence of a lien on the assets of the providing Party during the pendency of such contest, the purchasing Party shall be responsible for such payment and shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery.
 - 27.3.5. If it is ultimately determined that any additional amount of such a tax or fee is due to the imposing authority, the purchasing Party shall pay such additional amount, including any interest and penalties thereon.
 - 27.3.6. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the purchasing Party shall protect, indemnify and hold harmless (and defend at the purchasing Party's expense) the providing Party from and against any such tax or fee, interest or penalties thereon, or other charges or payable expenses (including reasonable attorney fees) with respect thereto, which are incurred by the providing Party in connection with any claim for or contest of any such tax or fee.
 - 27.3.7. Each Party shall notify the other Party in writing of any assessment, proposed assessment or other claim for any additional amount of such a tax or fee by a taxing authority; such notice to be provided, if possible, at least ten (10) Days prior to the date by which a response, protest or other appeal must be filed, but in no event later than thirty (30) Days after receipt of such assessment, proposed assessment or claim.
- 27.4. Taxes and Fees Imposed on Providing Party But Passed On To Purchasing Party.

- 27.4.1. Taxes and fees imposed on the providing Party, which are permitted or required to be passed on by the providing Party to its customer, shall be borne by the purchasing Party.
- 27.4.2. To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and/or fees shall be shown as separate items on applicable billing documents between the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the purchasing Party shall remain liable for any such taxes and fees regardless of whether they are actually billed by the providing Party at the time that the respective service is billed.
- 27.4.3. If the purchasing Party disagrees with the providing Party's determination as to the application or basis for any such tax or fee, the Parties shall consult with respect to the imposition and billing of such tax or fee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the providing Party shall retain ultimate responsibility for determining whether and to what extent any such taxes or fees are applicable, and the purchasing Party shall abide by such determination and pay such taxes or fees to the providing Party. The providing Party shall further retain ultimate responsibility for determining whether and how to contest the imposition of such taxes and fees; provided, however, that any such contest undertaken at the request of the purchasing Party shall be at the purchasing Party's expense.
- 27.4.4. In the event that all or any portion of an amount sought to be collected must be paid in order to contest the imposition of any such tax or fee, or to avoid the existence of a lien on the assets of the providing Party during the pendency of such contest, the purchasing Party shall be responsible for such payment and shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery.
- 27.4.5. If it is ultimately determined that any additional amount of such a tax or fee is due to the imposing authority, the purchasing Party shall pay such additional amount, including any interest and penalties thereon.
- 27.4.6. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the purchasing Party shall protect, indemnify and hold harmless (and defend at the purchasing Party's expense) the providing Party from and against any such tax or fee, interest or penalties thereon, or other reasonable charges or payable expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) with respect thereto, which are incurred by the providing Party in connection with any claim for or contest of any such tax or fee.
- 27.4.7. Each Party shall notify the other Party in writing of any assessment, proposed assessment or other claim for any additional amount of such a tax or fee by a taxing authority; such notice to be provided, if possible, at least ten (10) Days prior to the date by which a response, protest or other appeal must be filed, but in no event later than thirty (30) Days after receipt of such assessment, proposed assessment or claim.

27.5. In any contest of a tax or fee by one Party, the other Party shall cooperate fully by providing records, testimony and such additional information or assistance as may reasonably be necessary to pursue the contest. Further, the other Party shall be reimbursed for any reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket copying and travel expenses incurred in assisting in such contest.

27.6. To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale and thus subject to tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation of the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. If Applicable Law excludes or exempts a purchase of services under this Agreement from a Tax, but does not also provide an exemption procedure, then the providing Party will not collect such Tax if the purchasing Party furnishes the providing Party with a letter or other evidence of exemption, reasonably satisfactory to the providing Party, claiming an exemption and identifying the Applicable Law that both allows such exemption and does not require an exemption certificate. If the exemption is later found to be invalid by the applicable jurisdiction, then the purchasing Party shall pay any tax, interest and/or penalty that is determined to be due, and shall be responsible for any costs incurred by the providing Party, including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees.

28. AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS

28.1. No provision of this Agreement shall be deemed waived, amended or modified by either Party unless such a waiver, amendment or modification is in writing, dated, and signed by both Parties.

29. SEVERABILITY

29.1. Subject to Section 4.2, if any part of this Agreement is held to be invalid, void or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity will affect only the portion of this Agreement which is invalid. In all other respects this Agreement will stand as if such invalid provision had not been a part thereof, and the remainder of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated thereby.

30. HEADINGS NOT CONTROLLING

30.1. The headings and numbering of Sections and Parts in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not be construed to define or limit any of the terms herein or affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

31. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

31.1. This Agreement, including all Parts and subordinate documents attached hereto or referenced herein, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein, subject only to the terms of any applicable Tariff on file with the state Commission or the FCC, constitute the entire matter thereof, and supersede all

prior oral or written agreements, representations, statements, negotiations, understandings, proposals, and undertakings with respect to the subject matter thereof.

32. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS

- 32.1. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, Embarq and CLEC agree this Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the Parties hereto and their respective successors and permitted assigns.

33. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- 33.1. This Agreement sets forth the overall standards of performance for the services, processes, and systems capabilities that the Parties will provide to each other, and the intervals at which those services, processes and capabilities will be provided. The Parties understand that the arrangements and provision of services described in this Agreement shall require technical and operational coordination between the Parties. Accordingly, the Parties agree to form a team (the "Implementation Team") which shall develop and identify those processes, guidelines, specifications, standards and additional terms and conditions necessary to support and satisfy the standards set forth in this Agreement and implement each Party's obligations hereunder.
- 33.2. Dispute Resolution. If the Implementation Team is unable to agree upon any of the matters to be included in the Implementation Plan, then either Party may invoke the procedures set forth in Part B Section 25.

34. FEDERAL JURISDICTIONAL AREAS

- 34.1. Article 1, § 8, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution provides the authority to Congress to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over areas and structures used for military purposes (Federal Enclaves). Thus, Telecommunications Services to such Federal Enclaves are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Parties agree that Services provided within Federal Enclaves are not within the scope of this Agreement. To the extent Embarq has contracts with federal entities that limit or prohibit the ability of CLEC to provide resale or UNEs such contract will govern Telecommunications Services on such Federal Enclave. If the contract with the federal entity provides for the resale or provision of UNEs to provide service on the Federal Enclave, Embarq will provide CLEC with information regarding the provision of service on the Federal Enclave.